

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. No claim has been added or canceled. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview of November 14, 2005. In the interview, Applicants pointed out the differences between the claimed invention and the cited reference, i.e., Nakagawa. For example, Nakagawa does not disclose "the first and second electrode terminals" in the manner recited, nor does it disclose the "isolation diffusion region."

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 has been amended in response to these rejections.

Fig. 1 was objected to for not labeling it as -- Prior Art --. Applicants described Fig. 1 as being a conventional device and did not admitted it as being prior art. Therefore, Applicants believes that Fig. 1 should not be labeled as being prior art. If the Examiner disagrees, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to provide a prior art reference that would indicate Fig. 1 as being prior art.

Claim 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagawa et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 1 is directed to a power device. The claim recites, "a semiconductor substrate of first conductivity having an upper surface and a lower surface; a first electrode terminal coupled to a first conductive region provided proximate the upper surface of the substrate, the first electrode terminal being provided over the upper surface of the substrate; a second electrode terminal coupled to a second conductive region provided proximate the lower surface of the substrate, the second electrode terminal being provided below the lower surface of the substrate; an isolation diffusion region of second conductivity provided at a periphery of the substrate and extending from the upper surface to the lower surface of the substrate, the isolation diffusion region having a first surface corresponding to the upper surface of the substrate and a second surface corresponding to the lower surface; and a peripheral junction region of second conductivity formed at least partly

within the isolation diffusion region and formed proximate the first surface of the isolation diffusion region, wherein the peripheral junction region is different than the first and second conductive regions, and wherein the first and second electrode terminals define a vertical electrical current path therebetween." Nakagawa is a lateral device that has both cathode and anode at the upper side of the substrate. Nakagawa does not disclose or suggest at least "wherein the peripheral junction region is different than the first and second conductive regions, and wherein the first and second electrode terminals define a vertical electrical current path therebetween." Claim 1 is allowable at least for this reason. Claim 2-3 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least for this reason.

Applicants respectfully request claims 4-20 that depend from claim 1 be rejoined to its independent claim, i.e., claim 1, since claim 1 is a generic claim to claims 4-20.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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